

FRAGRANCE OF SILENT SERVICE



Fragrance of Silent Service

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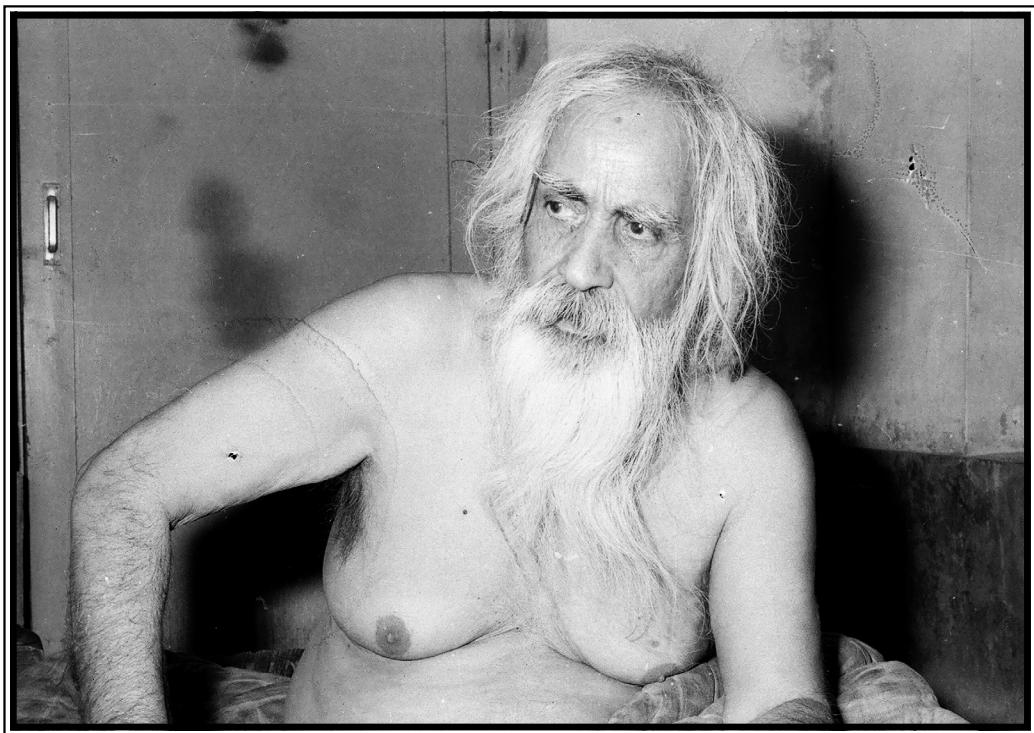
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Spirituality that secludes itself from the common, suffering, people has no meaning. Our God-consciousness is to be based on love & compassion, no parrot like recitation of any scripture; but living a practical life of loving compassion is the essence of spirituality. Love and compassion, seeking to remove the suffering of fellow beings renovates the living temple of God, the Body.

Mahaprabhu Shri Thakur Ji Maharaj



A true and selfless 'Sankalpa(Thought)' when it is ushered in the heart of a person and when the Sankalpa is consistently worked out by a disciplined team of dedicated souls, become Lord's own expression, and his grace attends to such a loving enterprise.

Param Pujya Shri Papa Ji Maharaj



PUJYA MATA INDRA RANI JI

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CHAPTER -1

Fragrance of Silent Service

On this blessed earth are born , from time to time , some rare flowers of human life , whose sole object of existence is to shed all around them the sweet fragrance of love and service for the joy of the world . These are the saints and sages who have appeared in different climes at different time in the history of the world . Shri Dharm Paul (Pujya Papa ji) is one such glorious flower who took birth in Ramdas District Amritsar on 25th January , 1920 .

Scholars speak or write from mental knowledge . Saints speak from direct experience of the Truth . That is why their company is always elevating purifying and transforming at its best . They may terminate their physical career at any time but their words and their thoughts continue to inspire humanity for all time . Shri Dharm Paul was a love able personality full of life and radiant with love for humanity . He was a pious soul , kind , generous and compassionate . Beautiful was his devotion for his Gurudeva Beloved Thakur ji Maharaj .

The holy books unquestionably play a good role in man's quest for the spiritual bliss . Studying and hearing of the scriptures infuse a new spirit in the yearning hearts , provided one acts according to the mandates and principles coached therein . These books , however , holy or sacred , are produced by some learned and awakened souls . These are created by man . They are not the source of wisdom,

but a medium of understanding . Hence a book remains a medium and the producer , the man , remains supreme and higher than the highest holy book . The scriptures themselves speak of the glory of the saint to approach a living master because the saint is the embodiment of the book encased wisdom . The books give the second hand narrative , where as the living sage talks of his own personal experience . The books cannot reveal the real tastefulness of the fruit of divinity . The greatest of the great holy books , the Vedas , stand witness to the illuminating statement that whosoever lucid and comprehensive the books may be , they are devoid of the divine thrilling charm . “ Study the holy books but for achieving the divine bliss , contact some living sage , “ said the Upanishads and Brahmsutras , Ramayana and Mahabharata .

Shri Dharm Paul was very eloquent on this point . He declared that the books produced more problems and solved no riddle . His contact with Shri Thakurji Maharaj changed his outlook , transformed his life and he became the chief vehicle for spreading the message of immortality as preached by his Gurudeva .

After drinking the nectar at the source , Papa ji spoke of the greatness of his Master and said that whereas the books and scriptures threw him in the drowning waters of confusion it was the helping hand of his Gurudeva which rescued him . “ Scriptures can produce scholars and intellectuals but cannot produce saints . “ In another statement Pujya Papa ji elaborated : - “ The holy books store relics and can never radiate the glow of the bliss divine . A highly sophisticated portrait of flower cannot produce any perfume . Shri Ram-

akrishna was not a well read scholar but his deep spiritual insight has transcended all the scriptures . “

At the time of his going into the self - styled seclusion , Mahaprabhu Shri Thakurji Maharaj silently and secretly entered the protals of heart of the few who were physically absent at the time of his entering the cave of silence and bewildering muteness . He blessed these selected hearts with his penetrating love and inspired them to spread his message that religion and spiritualism cannot be attained without selfless service of the suffering and living a purified , peace - giving , God - fearing and love - dyed life , and Shri Dharm Paul was one such blessed soul .

With faltering steps and fumbling words , this humble soul hesitatingly began to broadcast and relay his message of eternal truth . Slowly the veil of confusion , which has enraptured his abode , has torn asunder . Gurudeva Shri Thakurji Maharaj once more came into the lime light . His abode once again regained its glory and starved souls began to flock there . Once again he was accepted as God - incar nate . The Supreme Being , which has come earlier on this earth in diversified names and forms , was witnessed in his person . The divine soul Pujya Papaji worked as hard labourer in the hitherto unattended vineyard of the Master , sproutings of spiritual yearning in many hungry hearts . He became insignificant instrument in changing the course of life of many thousand sin - smithen persons .

This humble labourer of love followed the example of his Master in renouncing special status or credit for him self . Scrupulously avoiding to consecrate ‘ Prasad ‘ or to accept any pooja or pranam , he carried Shri Thakurji’s message

far and wide in many lands . He reclaimed many scorched fields of the ignorant and lost souls . All this lab our was done in a silent , sustained and systematic manner as an offering of speckless dedication and love at the lofty feet of the Gurudeva .

It was something unheard of . The messenger of Guru deva never styled himself or considered himself as Guru , even though , the field was open and uncontested and the temptation was fierce and violent . He lovingly gave all the glory to Shri Thakurji and contented to remain anonymous and equal to all the devotee brothers and sisters .

Taking clue from these words of their Ishtdeva , Papa ji emphasised and stressed the pertinent need of self - purification . “ It would be disgraceful for the scriptures and shrines if my life is not reformed and my soul is not dyed with the fast clinging love - colour . Let me leave the life of falsehood and sense - pleasures . Let me be reborn in the ethical values which my Master holds high , “ with these words he silently and steadily worked day and night to raise human temples and living shrines on many soils . The message of the Master worked wonders .

As the golden beams of the sun and the silken rays the moon cannot be imprisoned by any human hands so the splendour of our Guru - Pita Shri Dharm Paul to his countless devotees . To them his words were far more sacred than the printed books . He is present before their prayful hearts and tearful eyes . In the stillness of their hearts , he reveals to them the mysteries of love , of renunciation and of purity . He propagated the teachings and message of Shri Thakurji Maharaj among the Thakur Parivar and his efforts in this

direction were richly blessed .

He was actively associated with the Mission of Charity and also connected with the activities of Mother Teresa , of Calcutta who was awarded the Noble Prize for peace and fraternity between peoples . Mother Teresa born of Albanian parents in Yugoslavia devoted her life “ to the poorest of the poor . ” And this Mother Teresa had graced Shri Dharm Paul and visited the house at Tagore Garden . While you enter the house , you don't feel that you have entered a flat of a house - holder but feel elevated in the pure and sanctified atmosphere and environments of the hall - wherein pictures of Dada Sadhu Vaswani , Ramakrishna Paramhans , Mother Sharda , Vivekananda , Mother Teresa and Shri Thakurji Maharaj were hanging alongwith that of Guru Nanak , Christ and Budha . Whosoever goes to his house , is bewitched by the sanctified atmosphere - which is equally soul soaring and heart rendering .

Inspired by Sri Gurudeva to serve the suffering humanity and to relieve their suffering and to spread the feeling of brotherhood with the lepers , Shri Dharm Paul prompted a band of His selected devotees to visit the leper colonies to exercise lofty moral values and to render every possible service to them . It was not an ordinary task . Reason eroded their zeal and they felt tired and somewhat disillusioned , nearly giving into the temptation of abandoning the under taking . But the Supreme spirit manifested in the form of exalted Gurudeva to aid of those who wished heroically to persist in the efforts they were making for love of neighbours and at the highest point of the mind . He lighted a spark that brought a sudden intuition of the truth that it was God itself who comes

in the form of a leper to test our love for Him . This spirit ensured that those who are still condemn need to a sort of continuous death can discover life , improve its quality and find a place in society corresponding to their inherent human dignity , for like all other people they too are made in the image and likeness of God . When this selfless was fully established and coordinated with other humanita . rian organisations Sri Dharm Paul directed his disciples to sit with the lepers and squat and sing the glories of the Lord intermingling with each other and loosing all external consciousness . It was the first time in the history of congregational prayers and music , that his devotees dined with the lepers and shared their meals with them . It was also the first time that Nam - Dan “ Yagnas “ were held at various kusht Ashrams and many lepers were baptised and they now hold regular satsang sessions adoring him as their saviour , divine healer , supporter and most adorable Guru - Pita .

The central teaching of our ancient sages and seers , which our Guru - Pita Shri Dharm Paul preached and practised , is the divinity of man . Each one of us should be aware of our divine spiritual nature , abhor self - centredness and serve fellow beings who are sick , poor and the afflicted . To serve these needy people as veritable gods is the highest form of worship most suited to our present needs . “ Nothing excels such a charity done in the right spirit . Beside Healing the afflicted body , it purifies the mind of the giver and grants him the indescribable thrill of the divine ecstasy and spiritual bliss , taking the aspirant much nearer to God , “ said Swami Chidananda . “ One who makes himself a faithful channel of service at the behest of his Gurudeva receives from Him un tiring energy , relentless zeal , ever enthusiastic spiritual

stren gth and benedictions . Ultimately such a soul merges in the infinite satchidananda . “ This work is the real work and the religion of service is the supreme aim of the human life . Most of the people live for themselves , but as a matter of fact only he lives a true life who forgets his own suffering and serve others . This is the holiest “ Manavdharm ” and the truest worship of God .

Shri Dharm Paul laid emphasis on practical Vedanta and stressed it was not merely Nishkama Karma , but much more . He said : Look upon every man , woman and everyone as God . You cannot help , you can only serve ; service to His children is the worship of the Lord Himself . Such a service is a privilege . If the Lord grants that you can help anyone blessed are you ; do not think too much of yourselves . Feel blessed that the privilege was granted to you , while others had it not . You may invent an image through which to worship God , but a better image already exists , the living man . You may build a temple for worshipping God , but a better one , a much higher one , already exists , the human body . Worship Him in this New Shivala - new wall - less shrine .

He once said , “ I donot believe in a religion or God which cannot wipe the widow’s tears or bring a piece of bread to the orphan’s mouth or relief to the aching heart . A word of sincere sympathy , a look of love , a smile of true affection can give to the recipient much more than a heartless cheque , even if it is for a fat amount . This life is short , the vanities of the world are transient , but they alone live who live for others , the rest are more dead than alive . “

Intensely inspired by Sri Thakurji Maharaj's doctrine of selflessly serving the suffering humanity and helping the needy , Shri Dharm Paul (Pujya Papaji) set up the Sunshine Charity Trust and begging money and collecting funds from city to city and house to house , with the aid of like - minded brothers of faith they have been able to set charitable dispensaries for rendering free medical help to the slum - dwellers and poor people . All these brothers under the guidance of Papaji , who are running these healing shrines for the sick took the vow of serving the others absolutely selflessly as His worship and as an oblation to Thakurji Maharaj . They do not charge any salary , nor even the travelling charges and thus all the pooled funds are spent for the poor , the afflicted and the sick , fully adhering to the Gospel of Sri Thakurji . Another feature of this charity mission is that they do not approach any political leader or political party for help nor the Government agency but rely mostly on generous hearted persons and organisations and do all the service in an unassuming manner , a silent worship to the Most Illumined Sri Thakurji Maharaj .

Dada J. P. Vaswani once wrote about Sri Dharm Paul and said , “ years ago , I met one such tall man in Delhi , and I felt that my pilgrimage to that place was fulfilled . Shri Dharm Paul spends much of his time in his silence - corner , shedding tears of love and longing for the First and only Fair , the one Beloved of every heart . When he comes out of his silence , he is always busy helping some in need . He is a picture of silent service . There is a fragrance in his name and a music in his memory . His life teaches us the great lesson that we must serve not by cries and clamour , but by silent work . We have for a long time confounded work with noise . We do

little work : we create much noise . We spend our strength in tumults and shouts . There is so much of show and ostentation in our service . True strength is in silent work . The strength of silent work is what India needs today . For , today , in our public life there is lovelessness , there is the desire to shine and be great . The secret of true strength is in the life of those who serve silently . Sri Dharm Paul is a picture of loving service . He identifies himself with those he serves : you are not apart from me , he says to them , you are a part of me . The Dispensaries working under his beneficent guidance and inspiration , is a witness to the great ideal of silence and loving service . “

Becoming faithful is inner conversion and only the beginning of a wonderful new life . Being born again in faith is like hatching out of an egg . Long before our birth , even before our conception , God had us in mind and all along God has had a distinct purpose for us to fulfil on earth and in eternity . But we will never find or fulfil that wonderful purpose unless we grow in faith . Simply being hatched is not enough . We need to fly .

There is a story about a flock of barnyard geese . Every Sunday the geese would gather in the barnyard . One of them , a preaching goose , would struggle up on the top of the rail of the fence and exhort the geese about the glories of goose dom . He would tell them how wonderful it was to be a goose , rather than chicken . He would remind them of their great heritage and tell them of the marvellous possibilities in the future .

Occasionally , while he was preaching , a flock of wild geese , winging south from Swedon on their way to sunny countries would fly overhead in a marvellous V - formation . When that happened , all the geese would excitedly look up and say to one another , “ That is who we really are . We are not destined to spend our lives in the stinking barnyard . Our destiny is to fly . “ But then the wild geese would disappear from sight , their honkings echoing across the horizon . The barnyard geese would look around at their comfortable surroundings , sigh and return to the mud and filth of the barn , They never did fly .

Sadly there are a number of people on the earth , as emphasised by Pujya PapaJi , who remain in the barnyard , rather than spread their wings and learn to fly . Some of us are unwilling to run the risk of failure . Others are afraid to leave the comforts of the barnyard for the rugged life of faith . But anything worth having has its price . People who want to move on the spiritual maturity are willing to pay the price .

To be true faithful means being born again , moving from darkness to light , from death to life , from self - centredness to be divine by sharing what we have and what we are with those who are not for soaring high move like the skylark . Those blessed pioneers who started the chain of charitable hospitals was His grace and the courage of rely on the infinite grace of Gurudeva and noble hearted God - loving friends by taking care of the needy souls and sharing what ever they had with the afflicted .

Divine love is the magnet that attracts all blessedness . Pujya PapaJi radiated sympathy and goodwill to others to open the channel for God's love to come to him . He was not too

much attached to things which caused him to forget God . Whatever he offered , whatever he gave away in charity and whatever he did he did it as an offering to the Lord . He believed that in each human being abides the eternal spirit , which if heeded would play divine music from within . The man is created in the image of God , for he realises God in himself and in everything else , he becomes God . God reveals himself to man through faith in Him and that faith manifests itself through his love and sympathy for fellowmen .

Speaking on the occasion , Dada Jashan said that while coming to the place on 8th October , 1978 , he learnt that the locality where Shri Dharm Paul was staying was called “ Tagore Garden “ but one of the guru - sewaks , who brought Dada there , informed that this garden was without a flower . Dada Jashan said that although Tagore Garden was flower less , but amongst you is a fragrant , sweet flower of Humanity - Shri Dharm Paul Dada Jashan then enumerated three characteristics of a Flower :

1. Beauty
2. Fragrance
3. Sweetness .

Elucidating these three characteristics , Dada J. P. Vaswani said:

1. beauty should be of interior just like look of a child . The child also is carefree for he knows that his difficulties will be surmounted by the Lord . We should also learn to walk on way of simplicity - the simple way . It is only the simple who enter the kingdom of Heaven and Shri Dharm Paul is so simple and child like .

2. Fragrance of Shri Dharm Paul is his service - service of the poor and the broken ones - mutilated and the down tod-

den , the lepers , the lost . It was the American Poet Walt who said : “ When I see a prisoner had suffered but I let him along with street , I do not sympathise with him but feel that I am the very prisoner .

Referring to Shri Dharm Paul , Dada said that he not merely sympathises with lepers but feels that he is himself a leper , takes them to his bosom and identifies himself with the leper .

3. Sweetness . The life of every man who holds in the Name of God , is sweet . Referring again to Shri Dharm Paul Dada said : The more I know him , the more I love and revere him . His heart is full with longing for the Lord . He loves all who suffer in pain and agony and this has made his life beautiful . The Joy of the Lord flows out of him and I have come to bathe in that ocean of Joy .

Pujya Papa ji was credited with the qualities of SEWA SIM-RAN - SAMARPAN . He was identified with these three gifts of Maha Prabhu Shri Thakurji Majaraj by all the Missions of Charity , Leprosy Centres , Kusht Ashrams and all the spiritual institutions . He believed that God has a plan for every one of us , and there is a purpose in every fittle thing that happens to us . The man of faith , therefore rejoices in everything as it comes , to him , and moves on - ever onward , forward , Godward ! James Dillet Freeman , Unity School of Christianity , Unity Village - U.S.A . in bis letter to Pujya Papa Ji on May 6 , 1985 , assured him of the spirited prayers and the prayers of Silent Unity and love accompanying him in his service and ministry . How benignly and generously . He provides means for fulfilling His Charity Mission . What great and grand joy to be His instrument to submit to His will . Photo copy of the prayer in praise of Shri Dharm Paul to be A Minister of God and a Minister to man , is reproduced below :

CHAPTER - 2

A Minister

What does it mean to be a minister ?

It means to make yourself small so that others may feel large .

It means to make yourself a servant so that others may feel their mastery .

It means to give so that those who lack may receive .

It means to love so that those who feel unloved may have someone who never rejects them , someone with whom they can always identify themselves .

It means to hold out your help to those who ask and deserve help , and also to those who do not ask or deserve it . It means always to be there when you are needed , yet never to press yourself on another when you are not wanted .

It means to stay at peace so that those who are contentious will have someone to whom they can turn to stabilize themselves .

It means to keep a cheerful outlook so that those who are easily cast down may have someone to lift them up .

It means to keep faith , and to keep on keeping faith even when you yourself find little reason for believing , so that those who have no faith can find the courage to live .

It means not merely to live a life of prayer , but to turn your prayers into life - more life for you , more life for those to whom you minister .

It means to be God - centered and human - hearted , to involve yourself in humanity and to keep your vision on divinity and so draw forth in all around you the human form divine .

It means to share in the great moments of life - in birth and sickness and marriage and death - and at all these times , whether of crisis or of celebration to bring comfort and a blessing , and above all a sense of a Presence that some times we cannot see and of a Meaning that often we overlook .

That is what it means to be a minister of God and a minister to man .

To plough the seeds of love and purity Pujya Papa Ji emphasized that love is more than a response to the words and actions of others . Love is a divine power that when activated strengthens and uplifts , heals and prospers , guides and illumines . As we express and affirm faith in the spirit of God / Gurudeva , within and around us , let us also imbue it with the added power of the divine love . Faith and love act together to remove mountains of challenge . Guru Bhakti needs sincere dedication , tireless energy , enthusiastic spirit of service , great adaptability , much patience and boundless charity .

In his expanding activities he always saw the hand of Gurudeva and the silent but sure and unmistakable workings of

His grace and benedictions . Puja Papaji said with a vibrant , forceful voice , “ Guru kripa is undeniably a divine force that can turn even a stone into the infinite Sachidananda So make your life a channel of His sparkling , healing and invigorating love and thus relieve the pain and suffering others , as a worship . “

Our Guru Pita always proclaimed the supremacy and greatness of “ Sevadharma ” -the service for the needy and the forlorn . Life fulfils its supreme purpose when it is imbued with the spirit of service . Service is the very perfume of true life of love and sacrifice . The Lord comes to us in the form of the hungry , the sick , the naked , the poor and the downtrodden . To serve them , to share their burdens and to relieve their pain is the most practical shape of religion . To outpour for the benefit , comfort and pleasure of others is the greatest grace of the most merciful Lord . It was Meister Eckhart , the great German brahmagnani , who said “ Believe me , if there was a man willing to suffer on account of God and of God alone , then though he fell a sudden prey to the collective suffering of all the world , it would not trouble him nor bow him down , for God would be the bearer of his burden . “

Puja Papa Ji had a beautiful sense of humour which he retained till the end of his life . The words he spoke were vibrant with the sympathy and tenderness of his loving heart . Though he suffered great physical agony - a radiant smile always played on his lips . He was a man of great will - power . He looked upon all of his responsibilities as divine assignments . Speaking on the essential qualities of true discipleship our Guru Pita said , “ Our attitude should be , -The work I am doing is the work God has given me . I am firmly convinced that nothing comes to us except from the hand of God . There

is no doubt that God is directly involved in the life of every one , even the least of His creatures . Nothing happens by chance . So we ought to relate more directly to God in whatever we are doing . That is what life is all about . Don't think of your duties as tedious work , but as a blessed privilege to serve .

“ On 25th of January , 1990 , Pujya Papa ji , the life of Thakur Parivar , recoiled the last episode of his life and returned to his divine abode . Though he was 70 , he continued to be young in spirit and the Thakur Parivar felt happy to be in his company . His sweet , sacred memories continue to linger in many hearts and the generations unborn will salute him as a man of God .

Blessed be his life ! Fragrant be his memory !





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